

Please add new Claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The ceramic heater for a semiconductor producing/examining device according to claim 2,

wherein a resistance value scattering in said resistance heating element to the average resistance value of said resistance heating element is 5% or less.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment cancels the multiple dependency in Claim 3 and sets forth new dependent Claim 4 to recite subject matter of the cancelled multiple dependency.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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6-26-2002IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 3 to read as follows:

--3. (Amended) The ceramic heater for a semiconductor producing/examining device according to claim 1 [or 2],

wherein a resistance value scattering in said resistance heating element to the average resistance value of said resistance heating element is 5% or less.--